

# HARWICH CENTER INITIATIVE

## A Program for Improvement

The Town of Harwich and a volunteer committee are working together to enhance the village character and business vitality of Harwich Center.

Our goal is to enhance the area by capturing the best qualities of our town's unique history, location and qualities. We have undertaken numerous meetings, held a town-wide workshop to solicit ideas, and worked to create a clear program of improvements that can be pragmatically accomplished.



This poster captures the spirit of our initiative by illustrating the character of improvements that could occur along Main Street and the surrounding areas. It lists specific ideas that have been put forward, to help unlock the next steps of detailed design, funding and eventual completion. This initiative will require coordinated public and private efforts, and we encourage your interest and support.

### Landscape and Streetscape Improvements

The initiative envisions a consistent pattern of brick sidewalks along both sides of Main Street and key connecting intersections and public places. Improved handicapped ramps would be created. Special paving within the street and several "bump outs" would be created to calm the traffic moving through the Center, to make it both safer and more attractive.

Significant enhancements would take place at Exchange Park, Powderhouse Park and in front of Town Hall to create a more attractive landscape with more amenities for people to sit, visit, or simply walk through the village.



A central principal throughout these improvements is the importance of our center's history - through respectful design and interpretive signs, the legacy of the past should be carried into our future.



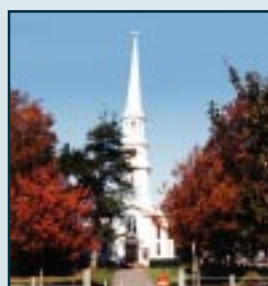
**Exchange Park:** this small park would become more inviting for pedestrians and visitors to sit, stroll, or appreciate the monuments and seasonal plantings that will enhance this gateway to the Center.



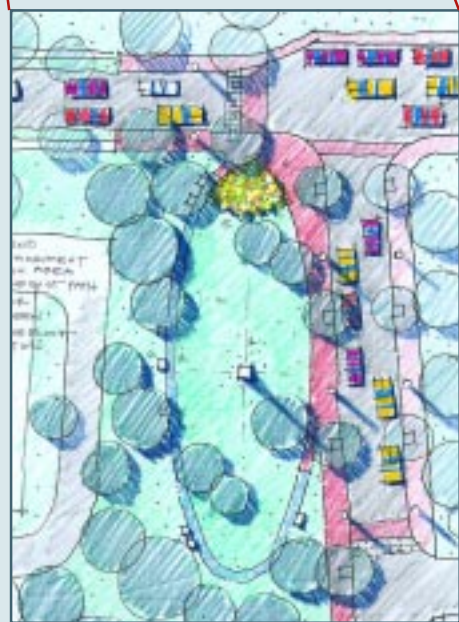
**Connections:** the plan envisions improved connections between the regional bikeway, Harwich Center streets, and the public parks and open spaces in the Center



**Town Hall:** the intersection of Main Street and Bank Street could have special paving, seasonal plantings in generous beds and benches for pedestrians and resting bicyclists.



**Powderhouse Park:** this area in an important civic space and connection to Brooks Academy. By raising the lawn, providing more light through pruning, and providing a special planting area along Main Street, it will gain new life and beauty.



**Street Lighting and Utilities:** these views show the dramatic improvement that removing overhead utilities and adding traditional lighting could bring.



### Connecting the Center for Pedestrians and Bicyclists

In the future, our center should be even more welcoming for pedestrians and bicyclists. This will be accomplished through improved sidewalks and crosswalks for pedestrians, and better places to sit and rest. The sketches illustrate the idea of providing signage and excellent bicycle connections between the Cape Cod bicycle trail and new bike racks at both Town Hall and Exchange Park.

### Lighting and Utilities

The overhead utilities are neither historic nor attractive; the initiative would relocate the lines underground or behind existing buildings, to create a far more attractive center. New, pedestrian scale light fixtures would be chosen to line our streets, consistent with the character of our town. These could hold banners and flags for holiday, or be supports for hanging planters in front of our stores and buildings.

### How Can this be Accomplished?

To provide these improvements will take several years and hundreds of thousands of dollars. Like other communities that have accomplished similar programs, a combination of resources can be applied:

**State Funding:** State funding has been a key part of many similar projects, and these projects are eligible for grants through the Public Works Economic Development Program and other programs.

**Town Resources:** Town resources can be provided for many elements through direct construction and maintenance of portions of the project.

**Organizations, Institutions and Private Resources:** Some of this can be accomplished

through direct contributions of time, dollars or improvements. Neighboring businesses and property owners, the Garden Club, and the civic contributions of our citizens are all part of the support network for this initiative.

### What Can I Do?

You can support Town proposals for grant applications, prioritizing funding and staff assistance in accomplishing its goals. You can help through direct contributions of time or resources. You can join the Harwich Center Initiative. Or you can do all three.

For more information, please contact \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_.